

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application as amended herein is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiners warning about the failure to claim priority for the Provisional Application filed on July 8, 2002. However, a claim for priority was included in the Declaration as filed with this Application and was acknowledged in the filing receipt. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's guidance as to other steps that should be taken to perfect this claim for priority if the claim for priority in the Declaration and the notation in the first line of page 1 of the specification are not sufficient.

Applicant has reviewed the specification for errors and has found none. However, Applicant will be alert for any errors that come to his attention, and will immediately seek to correct any such errors when discovered.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Laing (US 6,373,162) in view of Kawai et al. (US 5,436, 518). Liang teaches a permanent magnet electrical machine having an airgap defined between two stationary stator portions and enclosing a rotating permanent magnet rotor.

Claim 1 calls for a brushless hybrid electrical machine having a rotor supported for rotation about an axis of rotation relative to a juxtaposed stator that is stationary and magnetically interacts with said rotor. The rotor includes a ferromagnetic rotor structure having poles around a circumference, said poles arranged in a circumferentially alternating array of ferromagnetic and permanent magnet poles. The ferromagnetic and permanent magnet poles face a magnetic air gap created in the ferromagnetic structure. The stator has a stationary air core armature having winding located in said magnetic air gap. The stator also has a field coil that generates field coil flux that flows in a flux path through a flux path that includes the ferromagnetic poles, the magnetic air gap and the ferromagnetic rotor structure. The permanent magnet poles generate permanent magnet flux. The field coil flux and the permanent magnet flux induces an AC voltage in the windings of the air core armature as the rotor rotates. Claim 1 has been amended to additionally call for co-rotating ferromagnetic portions of the ferromagnetic rotor structure on both sides of the stationary air core armature for

conducting magnetic flux to said magnetic air gap and thence through the armature in the magnetic air gap. The field coil flux also flows in a flux path through the co-rotating ferromagnetic rotor portions and the ferromagnetic poles, said magnetic air gap and the ferromagnetic rotor structure.

Clearly there is nothing whatsoever like this additional structure now claimed in claim 1 in either cited reference. Hence, claims 1-3 should now be patentable over these references.

Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Hence, claims 4-8 should be allowable.

Claim 9 has been amended to specify that the magnetic air gap is defined between co-rotating portions of the rotor. Like the amendment to claim 1, this additional limitation distinguishes patentably over the cited references. Hence, claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-20 should now be patentable.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the claims now pending in this application distinguish patentably over the cited prior art. If the Examiner, after his independent reconsideration of these claims in view of the references and the remarks above, concurs with Applicant, he is requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner believes that this application contains patentable subject matter but contains some items that could be resolved by Examiner's Amendment, he is cordially invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below to discuss the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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